Checking of foreign ships

4676. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that around 1,11,000 qualified Indians work on foreign ships, bulk of which are registered in Panama, western coast countries, etc. and most of them are 25 years old;

(b) if so, whether these vessels being 25 years old and in bad shapes, still plying, are being checked/impounded as ships more than 15 years old cannot ferry goods in the sea whenever they come in Indian territorial waters; and

(c) whether any cases of deaths of Indian sailors on these ships have come to the notice of Government and if so, the details during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) According to the data maintained by the Indian Seafarers Database (INDoS) there are 1,46,245 registered Indian seafarers. The exact number of seafarers employed on Indian ships and foreign owned ships are not known. However, the approximate number of Indian seafarers working at any point of time on Indian flag ships is between 30,000-32,000 and on foreign flag ships, it is between 52,000-54000. The age profile of foreign ships, where Indian seafarers are working is also not known.

(b) Barring Single Hull Oil Tankers above 25 years of age, there is no restriction for any other types of ships to ferry cargo to Indian ports provided these ships are duly surveyed and certified for compliance with International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions, rules and regulations. Single Hull Oil Tankers above 25 years of age are not allowed to ferry oil cargo to Indian ports. Foreign ships visiting Indian ports are randomly inspected by the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) Surveyors under the port State Control regime. If foreign ships are found sub-standard or un-seaworthy during these inspections, ships are detained till such time all deficiencies

are rectified. During the year 2006, MMD Surveyors inspected a total of 653 foreign flag ships at various ports and out of these, 99 ships were detained due to deficiencies. Almost 80% of 99 ships detained were above 25 years of age, and out of the total number of 653 inspections carried out about 30% were above 25 years of age.

(c) Reported deaths of Indian seafarers working on foreign flag ships of more than 15 years old since January 2005 are as follows:

Years	No. incidents involving foreign ships (more than 15 years old)	No. of deaths
2005	5	5
2006	1	3
2007	2	2

Roads constructed under Highway Plan

4677. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of the roads constructed till December, 2006 as Cabinet approval for construction of 5,000 km. under the Highway Plan was accorded in December, 2003;

(b) whether the annual targets fixed for North-South and East-West corridors have been achieved;

(c) if not, whether there has been any cost-over-run or time-over-run; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) In December, 2003, Government had approved for undertaking 4/6 laning of 6,195 km length of National Highways (NHs) under National Highways Development